

Serial No. 10/627,984

Attorney Docket No. 26A-008

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, 26-29, 35, 36, 38 and 40 are pending. Claims 1-9, 11, 13-25, 30, 31-34, 37, 39, 41 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 10, 12, 26, 35, 36, 38, and 40 have been allowed. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Although in allowable condition, claim 42 has been canceled.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bertrand (US 2834606). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn because claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 30, although the wording added to claim 27 differs slightly from that of claim 30. Claim 30 has been canceled. Claim 30 was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 27 is essentially the same as claim 30 written in independent form and is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertrand in view of Igawa (US 6186544). Claims 28 and 29 depend on claim 27, which is considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

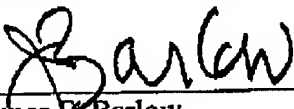
In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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